



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 9, 2002

H.R. 2963 **Deep Creek-Yampatika Ute Wilderness Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on March 20, 2002

CBO estimates that H.R. 2963 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any such impact would be negligible. H.R. 2963 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2963 would designate as wilderness approximately 7,350 acres of federal lands located along Deep Creek in Colorado and administered by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Lands within the proposed wilderness would be withdrawn from programs to develop mineral and geothermal resources. Before the designation would take effect, however, the Secretary of Agriculture would have to determine that certain water rights within or upstream of the proposed wilderness have been canceled or conveyed to the Colorado Water Conservation Board. H.R. 2963 would authorize the appropriation of \$300,000 for a grant to Colorado to allow the state to compensate willing parties for canceling or conveying such rights.

Based on information from the state of Colorado, CBO expects the proposed designation would take effect in 2003. Based on information from the Forest Service and BLM, we estimate that designating the lands as wilderness would not significantly affect the agencies' costs and that the grant authorized under H.R. 2963 would cost \$300,000 in 2003, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Withdrawing the lands from leasing and development could result in forgone offsetting receipts if, under current law, the lands would generate receipts from those activities. According to the Forest Service and BLM, however, the lands currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to over the next 10 years. Hence, we estimate that any changes in offsetting receipts under H.R. 2963 would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.